

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 OMB-01 /088 W

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P R 181300Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4900

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4049

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, SY, IS, US

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF SYRIAN MILITARY INTENTIONS TOWARD
GOLAN AND UNDOF RENEWAL

REF: DAMASCUS 4048

1. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS MADE BY LOCAL UPI/AP STRINGERS OSTWANI AND
FARES OCT 17 RE GOLAN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING WERE MORE OMINOUS.
WHEN EMBOFF QUESTIONED OSTWANI ABOUT ISRAELI ALLEGATIONS THAT
SYRIA EVACUATING CIVILIANS FROM GOLAN REGION, SHE RESPONDED
THAT THIS WAS NOT JUST ALLEGATION BUT ACCURATE REPORT. ASKED
WHY SARG UNDERTAKING SUCH PROVOCATIVE MEASURE, SHE STATED
CONFIDENTIALLY THAT SHE HAD "LEARNED" SYRIA INTENDED TO CON-
DUCT 48-HOUR OPERATION INTO GOLAN REGION TO OCCUPY FURTHER
PIECE OF ISRAELI CONTROLLED TERRITORY. AS RESULT, SHE CLAIMED,
SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD BE OBLIGED TO RETURN TO
SYRIA AND NEGOTIATE COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. WHEN
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EMBOFF EXPRESSED INCREDULITY OVER STORY, SHE REPEATED,

"YOU WILL SEE. IT WILL HAPPEN SOON." SHE PROMISED TO CONTACT EMBASSY IF SHE LEARNED MORE.

2. FARES TOLD CAO, IN CONVERSTATION REPORTING HIS "EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW" WITH "HIGH MILITARY SOURCE," THAT SYRIA WAS ENGAGED IN ATTEMPT TO BUILD UP POLITICAL/MILITARY PRESSURE IN PERIOD LEADING TO NOVEMBER 30 UNDOF RENEWAL DEADLINE. ACCORDING TO FARES, "IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, TI WILL BE QUICK, COUPLE DAY ACTION AFTER WHICH SYRIA WOULD STOP OPERATIONS AND US WOULD CONTROL ISRAEL" (TO PREVENT IT FROM UNDERTAKING SERIOUS REPOSTE). FARES ASKED CAO TO PASS ON TO AMBASSADOR THAT RECENTLY FOR FIRST TIME HE PERMITTED TO FILE STORY SUGGESTING THAT SARG MIGHT NOT RENEW UNDOF MANDATE.

3. COMMENT: ALLEGATION THAT SYRIA REMOVING CIVILIANS FROM GOLAN REGION WOULD CERTAINLY BE PROVOCATIVE ACTION IF NOT ADEQUATELY EXPLAINED. WE WILL TRY TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION. IN MEANTIME, WE RELUCTANT TO ASCRIBE UNDUE IMPORTANCE TO OSTWANT'S COMMENTS ABOUT IMMINENCE OF SYRIAN AGGRESSIVE OPERATIONS. WHILE SHE HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH SOME SOLID INFORMATION IN PAST, SHE ALSO TENDS TO OVER-DRAMATIZE BITS AND PIECES SHE COLLECTS. HOWEVER, BOTH SHE AND FARES HAVE HIT UPON SCENARIO OF QUICK THRUST INTO GOLAN WITH ASSIGNED ROLE FOR US IN AFTERMATH. WHILE THIS MAY NOT REPRESENT AGREED-UPON SARG OPERATIONAL STRATEGY, CORRESPONDENTS MAY HAVE TURNED UP OPTION UNDER CONSIDERATION BY SARG.
MURPHY

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